



# Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support for USAID/Africa (BATS)

THIRD QUARTER FY 2007, APRIL – JULY 2007

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**Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support for USAID/Africa**

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## ACRONYMS

ABCG	Africa Biodiversity Consultative Group
BATS	Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support for USAID/Africa
CTO	Cognizant Technical Officer
FS/IP	USDA Forest Service/International Programs
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
LOE	level of effort
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PMU	Project Management Unit
STTA	short-term technical assistance
TA	technical assistance
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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## **INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**

The objective of the Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support for USAID/Africa (BATS) task order (under the EPIQ II IQC) is to build capacity within the Africa Bureau and its field missions to improve conformance with the Foreign Assistance Framework within Economic Growth Environment Program Area (EG8.1) through timely biodiversity assessments, targeted analyses, and other program development support. By incorporating best practices into operational plans and Mission Strategic Plans, this project will serve as a platform for raising awareness of USAID's biodiversity conservation agenda.

BATS will serve as a support facility that provides services to meet mission and partner needs by:

- Assessing USAID biodiversity conservation experience and determining ways forward (Task A)
- Reviewing and improving the environmental impacts of extractive industries alliances (Task B)
- Supporting conservation in states vulnerable to crisis, in crisis, or emerging from crisis (Task C)
- Conducting 118/119 assessments and analyses of biodiversity threats and opportunities within Operational Plans (Task D)

### **Staff Changes:**

The BATS PMU welcomed its new Africa Region associate, Sarah Cooper, this quarter.

## **TASK A. TWENTY YEARS OF BIODIVERSITY IN AFRICA**

Joy Hecht completed and submitted a draft of the Task A report on April 11, 2007. Chemonics distributed the draft report to the Task A working group and gave members an opportunity to provide feedback. The majority of members found several important gaps within the report and felt strongly that these gaps needed to be addressed before finalizing the report and organizing key findings into an ABCG presentation.

Once the comments were collected, Dave Gibson, Tim Resch and Judy Oglethorpe met to discuss the best way forward for finalizing the report. The group decided that it would be best for Dave Gibson, with the help of the BATS PMU, to fill in the identified gaps and complete the report. Once the report is completed it will be distributed to the Task A working group for feedback. The report is currently with Dave Gibson and is expected to be finished by the end of the quarter.

## **TASK B. MANAGING EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES**

A meeting was held with Task B participants to refine the approach and organization for the guidebook sections. A path forward was agreed to and several changes to the layout were made including: adding a general resources section to the end of the guide, adding “don’t forget” sections for each industry, and adding a glossary of common terms. All sections have been drafted and reviewed by our communication specialist.

Renee Morin also responded to comments on the 118/119 report for Sierra Leone as part of the extractive industry technical support subtask.

## **TASK C. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION FOR STATES VULNERABLE TO/RECOVERING FROM CRISIS**

Work on the Task C folder packet (An introductory piece, 5-7 Topical Pieces, and a Reference piece) has been ongoing. A draft of the first topical piece, *Postwar land policy implementation*, was completed and a format for the final product was agreed upon. The drafting of the remaining sections also began in the quarter, with Jon Unruh working on the topical pieces, and the Chemonics Home Office team working on the introductory and resource pieces. Drafts of all of the topical pieces as well as the resource piece are scheduled to be completed for circulation to the working group by the end of July.

## **TASK D. SUPPORT FOR BIODIVERSITY AND TROPICAL FORESTRY ASSESSMENTS**

From June 13-15 Chemonics helped to organize and deliver a 118/119 Biodiversity and Tropical Forest assessment Training Workshop in Kalispell Montana for the USDA Forest Service. This workshop consisted of 11 modules, three case study based exercises, and one field trip to Glacier National Park, and was delivered in cooperation with USDA Forest Service International Programs (IP) and the Task Order CTO Tim Resch. As implementing partners to the BATS program, IP objective was to build a cadre of trained personnel that would be made available for future 118/119 assignments. There were 15 participants in this event from the forest service, not including IP Staff. Workshop objectives were as follows: 1) Build participants’ capacity to

conduct 118/119 Biodiversity and Tropical Forestry Assessments, and 2) Strengthen the working relationship between USAID and USFS to improve biodiversity programming. This workshop was extremely well received, and numerous trainees have expressed they are now willing and able to take on a 118/119 assignments.

Chemonics conducted one field base 118/119 Biodiversity and Tropical Forest assessment during this quarter. This assessment was conducted for Benin by Dr. Joao S. de Queiroz (Team Leader) and Professor Kolawolé Sikirou Adam (Local Counterpart). As of the end of the quarter, the report has been drafted and was under internal review by Chemonics. The draft of the report is scheduled to be submitted to USAID in July.

Two of the draft reports submitted in the previous quarter (Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone) received feedback from USAID and underwent revision in the present quarter. A third report (Mauritania) is still waiting for feedback (*feedback received early July*). Revised submissions of all three reports are expected in the next quarter. We are currently in the process of preparing for a three-person team for a field-based assessment in Guinea.

## **COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

The BATS PMU and communications specialist, Tamara Babiuk, held a communications strategy meeting on April 12 at WWF with project partners from USAID, Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG), and IP. From this strategy meeting, Chemonics produced a communications plan that defined the objectives, context, target audiences, and outreach tools for each of the tasks as well as the BATS program in general.

Based on this strategy, the Chemonics team has been working to create more robust and useful web pages for the project. BATS pages are hosted on the FRAME website, where we are planning to expand the presence to include pages for all of the tasks as well as increasing the information and links based on the 118/119 workshop held in Montana.

## **BATS PROJECT PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

The project monitoring plan (PMP) for this task order has been modified from typical indicator-driven monitoring to incorporate milestones as measures of project performance. Because BATS is highly dependent on mission technical assistance requests and is heavily based on developing toolkits and other biodiversity resources, we will present project progress and results in terms of milestones met or achieved. Each task's results and related milestones are presented in the below table. The status of milestones for the second quarter of FY07 can be found in the last column. If no status is indicated, no immediate updates are available or the subtask has not begun.

For the second quarter of FY07, most subtasks are on schedule and initial progress has been made for subtasks and milestones that are due in the third quarter. Adjustments have been made to the following:

- The Africa review workshops for Task A will not take place in Month 7. The roll out of the summary paper will be in the US and future activities under Task A will depend on ABCG's involvement. BATS will continue to support this effort following ABCG's lead.
- Instead of two separate items for a communications tool and best practice guidelines, the Task C working group will be producing a folder packet (as described above), which

will act both as a communications tool and technical informational pieces. This tool is being developed within the original timeframe and should be produced by Month 9.

Results	Milestones	Timeframe	Status
<b>Task A</b>			
USAID Africa biodiversity policy improved through guidance incorporation and dissemination	Historical assessment of past twenty years of USAID biodiversity conservation in Africa	Month 6	Draft under first review. Second review and rollout to take place in Month 7-8.
	Africa review workshops	Month 7	TBD pending ABCG involvement
	Compile future trends and recommendations	Month 8	Pending outcome of review
	Final combined report completed	Month 9	
<b>Task B</b>			
USAID policy for alliances with extractive industries improved for forest management and biodiversity conservation	Toolkit launched	Month 9	Draft toolkit complete. Formatted product to be reviewed Month 10. Rollout Month 11.
	Provide mission TA	Ongoing/as needed	
	Web site protocol approved/ launched	Month 6	Complete; additional page organization and updates ongoing
<b>Task C</b>			
USAID activities in biodiversity conservation within rebuilding and developing countries improved	Initial communications tools developed	Month 7	Design and consensus for initial tool complete
	Cluster-based best practice guidelines produced	Month 9	Production of "folder Packet" ongoing
	Provide TA to missions	Ongoing/as needed	
<b>Task D</b>			
USAID Country Operational Plans improved by incorporating results of tropical forestry and biodiversity assessments	Finalize prioritization of country support	Month 3	Complete, included in FY07 Work Plan
	118/119 Tracker established	Month 6	Drafted
	FS/IP 118/119 assessment training conducted	Month 5	Planned for Q2 FY07

## **NEXT QUARTER**

During the fourth quarter of FY07, the BATS PMU will support technical teams with ongoing activities.

### **Task A**

The Task A report will be finalized next quarter, using feedback and comments from task A working group members. Once the report has been finalized, Nancy Gelman of ABCG will begin organizing the ABCG event. Although the ABCG event will provide an opportunity for Ms. Hecht to present her research and findings, it will also host other panelists and will focus on the way forward for conservation.

### **Task B**

The Task B toolkit will be fully drafted by the end of the fourth quarter. This draft will go under formatting, editing, and then review by the working group. We will launch this toolkit in the fourth quarter via the web and in hard copy. Renee Morin will review the IFC mining guidelines with respect to biodiversity by mid-August 2007.

### **Task C**

The Task C folder packet should be fully drafted by the end of the July, and will go under review by the working group. We anticipate finalizing and producing the packet by the end of the fourth quarter. This folder packet will be posted on the FRAME website and distributed electronically to audiences as appropriate. A limited batch will also be produced in hard copy for distribution to targeted audiences. Once the folder packet is ready for distribution, it will be used to inform audiences (identified in the communications workshop) of the technical issues, as well as be used as a “marketing tool” to generate interest in further examining the topics and raising awareness of the services that can be provided through BATS.

### **Task D**

The BATS project will continue conducting desk-top and field-based assessments next quarter. Planning for a field based assessment in Benin is underway, and we are also in discussion about assessments for Zimbabwe and Madagascar. Chemonics and the FS/IP will collaborate to leverage as many resources and as much technical knowledge as possible.

Chemonics is also planning for an in-house 118/119 Biodiversity and Tropical Forestry Assessment training, scheduled for April 25, 2007. The three hour training will be led by Dave Gibson and will introduce important legislation as well as best practices for designing and preparing for assessments, conducting desk-top and field-based assessments, and measuring and mainstreaming assessment results.

### **Communications**

The FRAME website will continue to be updated and populated with deliverables during the fourth quarter.